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URMSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1955

and of the

Chief Sanitary Inspector



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Urmston Urban District Council

Chairman of the Council 1955-56 :
Councillor E. T. WILKINSON, J.P.

HEALTH COMMITTEE 1955-56

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. A. M. WILKINSON

Vice-Chairman : Councillor J. F. RAVENSCROFT

Councillor L. P. Brookes

„ N. Heywood
„ F. W. Land
„ Mrs. R. V. Royle-Higginson, J.P.
„ E. T. Wilkinson, J.P.
„ W. Wroe, J.P.
„ Mrs. S. Blaby

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :
W. SHARPE, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :
*W. WOOD, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors :
*F. G. V. RUMSEY, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
*W. F. MALING, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.
*J. PENNINGTON, C.S.I.B.
(Resigned 28th May, 1955)
*Certified Meat and Food Inspectors

Chief Clerk :
G. W. BLAKE, A.C.I.S.

Clerks :
E. MARGERISON
T. L. COOKE (National Service from 1st November, 1954)
(Mrs.) D. M. KIRBY (Resigned 4th February, 1955)
(Mrs.) A. GRACE (Commenced 28th February, 1955)
(Resigned 12th November, 1955)
(Miss) M. A. BAIN (Commenced 19th December, 1955)

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1955

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urmston Urban District Council.

I have much pleasure in presenting the annual report on the health of the district for the year 1955 in accordance with the requirements of the Minister of Health.

Vital Statistics

A perusal of the statistical tables in the report will show that on the whole the health of the community has been satisfactory. The main points of interest may be summarised as follows :—

Population

According to the report of the Registrar General the estimated population for mid 1955 was 39,900 an increase of 663 on the census figure of 1951.

Births

The registered number of live births was 635 giving a rate of 15.9 per thousand population compared with 15.9 for the previous year. The average rate for England and Wales was 15.0 per thousand live births.

Deaths

The general death rate for the year was 10.5 per thousand of the population representing a total of 378 deaths. The national rate for England and Wales was 11.7. There were 86 deaths from cancer, in 21 of which the site of the neoplasm was in the lung or bronchus. This is an increase in pulmonary cancer of 5 over the previous year. Of the 21 people dying from this form of cancer only two were females. Similar trends for the increasing incidence of this disease are shown throughout the country and the fact that we are now facing an epidemic of this disease amongst middle-aged men must be faced. It has been shown fairly conclusively by field survey and laboratory research in many parts of the world, that the main cause of this steadily increasing incidence of lung cancer is the inhalation of tobacco smoke, yet very little is being done, by those responsible for the maintenance of the public health, to try and combat this epidemic. One wonders if we

as practitioners of medicine are really being honest with ourselves, and towards the public in our handling of this situation. Are we going to continue to keep our heads in the sand until we are confronted with an epidemic of disastrous proportions involving not only the male sex? We must expect in the years ahead to have an increasing number of women contracting this disease, as the increasing consumption of cigarette tobacco over the last 30 years makes its effect felt on the female community.

If the press devoted a little of the space and time which they use in publicising anterior poliomyelitis, the importance of which has been exaggerated out of all proportion to its seriousness, to informing their public of the dangers associated with smoking, they would be doing a much greater service for the community. Is this too much to hope for?

Infant Mortality

The number of children under one year who died in 1955 was 16 giving a rate per thousand live births of 25. This was a decrease of 8 on the figure for the previous year when the rate per thousand live births was 35.

The rate for England and Wales was 24.9. Of the 16 children who died, 11 succumbed during the first month of life giving a neo-natal death rate of 17 per thousand live births.

Maternal Mortality

After three years without a maternal death, one death due to childbirth was reported during the year, giving a maternal mortality rate of 1.55 per thousand total births.

Infectious Diseases

The total number of notified cases of infectious diseases was very much above the annual average due chiefly to an epidemic of measles. Out of a total of 1,175 cases notified, measles accounted for 862 and whooping cough 170. Only one death attributable to an infectious disease was recorded this being due to whooping cough.

It is again very pleasing to report that no case of diphtheria was reported in the district. This is the ninth successive year in which the community have been free from the disease a very striking testimony to the effectiveness of the preventive measures taken against it.

Immunisation and Vaccination

I must again repeat the importance of having children protected against diphtheria and smallpox during their first year of life. There is no excuse for any parent who neglects to have this done since the procedure in each case is safe, free, and easily available.

Environmental Health Services

There are two major environmental health problems in the district, those of atmospheric pollution, and adulteration of water courses.

Regarding air pollution the outlook would appear to be a little more hopeful than it has been. The government acting on the recommendations of the Beaver Committee have presented to Parliament the Clean Air Bill which is now on its way to the statute book. The use made of this Bill when it becomes law will depend on the enthusiasm and courage of the individual local authorities and their officers, since although it does not measure up to the expectations of the ardent smoke abatement enthusiast, it nevertheless gives adequate scope for an intensive improvement campaign. It is to be hoped therefore that all authorities especially those in the "Black Areas" will make every effort to administer this Act with zeal and determination in an attempt to get rid of a serious health hazard which has been accepted in a complacent manner by too many for too long.

In the cleansing of our water courses in the district it seems that we will have to admit defeat the only solution being that of decent burial. The culverting of streams is a slow and costly process to which there seems to be no satisfactory alternative, and which I am afraid will have to be undertaken for health reasons as soon as practicable.

I should like to express my appreciation to the staff of the health department for their work throughout the year and for all the help I have received from other departments. To the Chairman and members of the Health Committee I offer my thanks for their support and encouragement during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your Obedient Servant,

W. SHARPE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Area (Statute Acres)	4,799
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1955	39,900
(Census, 1951)	39,237
(Census, 1931)	9,284
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1955 accord- ing to Rate Books	13,074
Number of Inhabited Dwellings (Census, 1951)	11,902
Persons per acre	8.3
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census, 1951)	12,210
Rateable Value	£356,762
Product of 1d. Rate	£1,468

VITAL STATISTICS

Based on the Net Births and Deaths after Correction for Inward and Outward Transfers

Live Births :

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	308	305	613
Illegitimate	11	11	22
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	319	316	635
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population (adjusted) 15.9

Still Births :

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	1	3	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	4	7	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births 17
Deaths 378
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population (adjusted) 10.5
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion... 1
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births..... 1.55

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	11	5	16
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	11	5	16
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 **live** births 25

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	6	5	11
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	6	5	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Neo-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 **live** births 17

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1955

Registrar-General's Classification

		Males	Females	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	1	—	1
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	13	6	19
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	19	2	21
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	7	7
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
14.	Malignant neoplasm (other sites) ...	17	22	39
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	2	3
16.	Diabetes	—	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	21	36	57
18.	Coronary disease, angina	37	15	52
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	4	5	9
20.	Other heart disease	22	33	55
21.	Other circulatory disease	5	8	13
22.	Influenza	1	2	3
23.	Pneumonia	6	3	9
24.	Bronchitis	14	9	23
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	2	—	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	4	3	7
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	—	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1
31.	Congenital malformations	2	3	5
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases...	11	18	29
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	5	1	6
34.	All other accidents	1	3	4
35.	Suicide	4	3	7
36.	Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
All causes ...		194	184	378

Age and Sex Incidence of Deaths

Age at Death	Males	Females	Total
0-1	11	5	16
1-2	---	---	---
2-5	1	---	1
5-15	1	1	2
15-25	---	2	2
25-45	9	10	19
45-55	21	18	39
55-65	38	20	58
65-75	51	45	96
75 and over	62	83	145
	194	184	378

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate for 1955 was 25 per 1,000 live births compared with 21 for the previous year. This is comparable with the rate for England and Wales of 24.9 per 1,000 live births. The following table shows the improvement in the infant mortality rate during the last 23 years.

INFANT MORTALITY

Year	URMSTON		ENGLAND AND WALES
	Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1933	13	41	64
1934	21	46	59
1935	15	33	57
1936	22	47	59
1937	31	58	58
1938	14	26	53
1939	27	48	50
1940	24	45	55
1941	34	65	59
1942	34	63	49
1943	37	56	49
1944	37	49	46
1945	18	29	46
1946	21	30	43
1947	28	33	41
1948	20	29	34
1949	21	31	32
1950	13	21	29.8
1951	7	10	29.6
1952	11	21	27.6
1953	9	14	26.8
1954	22	35	25.5
1955	16	25	24.9

INFANT MORTALITY, 1955

Causes of death of Infants under One Year of Age

Cause of Death	Under 1 Mth.	1 Mth.	2 Mths.	3 Mths,	4 Mths.	5 Mths.	6 Mths.	7 Mths.	8 Mths.	9 Mths.	10 Mths.	11 Mths.	Total under 1 year.
Prematurity	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Asphyxia	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Toxaemia	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hydrocephalus	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Peritonitis.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Intra-cranial hæmorrhage	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Anencephalus	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Heart Disease	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Neuro-virus infection ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pemphigus neonatorum ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	11	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Year	URMSTON		ENGLAND AND WALES
	Number of Maternal Deaths	Maternal Mortality Rate	Maternal Mortality Rate
1933	1	3.06	4.23
1934	1	2.11	4.41
1935	3	6.32	3.93
1936	3	6.10	3.81
1937	6	10.83	3.11
1938	1	1.79	3.08
1939	nil	—	2.93
1940	2	3.57	2.16
1941	1	1.85	2.23
1942	4	7.05	2.01
1943	2	2.93	2.29
1944	2	2.60	1.93
1945	nil	—	1.79
1946	nil	—	1.43
1947	1	1.18	1.17
1948	nil	—	1.02
1949	2	2.91	0.98
1950	1	1.57	0.86
1951	1	1.62	0.79
1952	nil	—	0.72
1953	nil	—	0.76
1954	nil	—	0.69
1955	1	1.55	0.64

The mortality rates are based on each 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Deaths from Cancer, 1955

Site of Disease and Age at Death

Cancer (site)	At all ages	At Ages (years)			
		0 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Caecum	1	—	—	—	1
Colon	3	—	—	—	3
Carcinomatosis.....	18	—	—	5	13
Bladder	1	—	—	—	1
Breast	5	—	—	3	2
Bronchus	10	—	1	4	5
Liver	4	—	—	3	1
Liver and Peritoneum ...	1	—	—	—	1
Peritoneum	1	—	—	1	—
Ovary	2	—	—	2	—
Pancreas.....	1	—	—	1	—
Prostate	2	—	—	1	1
Oesophagus	3	—	—	1	2
Rectum	5	—	—	2	3
Stomach.....	16	—	—	6	10
Lung	11	—	—	8	3
Leg	1	—	—	—	1
Ureter.....	1	—	—	1	—
Totals	86	—	1	38	47

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Specimens for pathological and bacteriological examination are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at either Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester, or 143, Regent Road, Salford, according to the nature of the specimen. Chemical examinations are carried out by the Lancashire County Analyst at the County Laboratory Preston.

The number of examinations carried out during the year was 236, made up as follows :—

Faeces	74
Throat Swabs	8
Nasal Swabs	3
Skin Swabs	2
Steak and Kidney Pies	3
Egg Albumen	13
Frozen Egg	3
Skimmed Milk Powder	1
Milk—	
Tubercle Bacilli	8
Methylene Blue	38
Phosphatase Test	32
Turbidity Test	5
Ice Cream	34
Swimming Bath Water (Bacteriological) ...	4
Swimming Bath Water (Chemical)	7
Drinking Water (Chemical)	1

Local Legislation

The following adoptive Acts of Parliament are in force in the district :—

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890. Parts III and IV.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907. Part II (other than Section 31); Part IV; Part VI; Section 86 of Part VII; Section 95 of Part X.

Public Health Act 1925. Part II and Part VI.

Private Street Works Act 1892.

Byelaws relating to the following have been made by the Council :—

Cemetery.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

Transport of Food.

New Buildings.

Pleasure Fairs.

Sterilisation of Animal Feeding Meat.

Hairdressers and Barbers.

Handling, Wrapping and Sale of Food.

New Streets.

Compulsory Removal of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act 1948 has the purpose of securing necessary care and attention for persons who are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to devote themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention. If the Medical Officer of Health certifies such action to be necessary the local authority may apply to a court of summary jurisdiction for an order for the removal of such a person to a hospital or other suitable place.

The National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951 speeds up the procedure for obtaining orders under section 47 where removal without delay is certified as necessary by the Medical Officer of Health and another registered medical practitioner. The powers conferred are used sparingly and only as a last resort after sympathetic persuasion has failed.

It was found necessary to take official action to secure removal to hospital of an aged lady of 82 years.

Hospitals

There are two hospitals situated within the district namely Park Hospital, Davyhulme, with 433 beds providing a full range of specialist services and a large out-patients department, and Urmston Cottage Hospital which with 22 beds is devoted entirely to the care of maternity patients.

Medical Practitioners

There are 16 doctors resident in the district and about 12 residing in neighbouring districts who practise in the area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

There has been no change in the district's water supply since the last report.

Drainage and Sewerage

The new pumping station at Carrington Road, Flixton, has been completed and brought into operation. Both Church Road and Carrington Road pumping stations are now in full operation and the old pumping station at Flixton Village has been discontinued. A scheme for the reconstruction and modernisation of Flixton sewage works has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government but it will need further modification as evidenced by the result of investigations into the question of infiltration of surface water into the sewers. A scheme for the construction of a new sewer in Trafford Park has also been submitted to the Ministry.

A considerable amount of clearing work has been carried out to Bent Lanes brook and Eea brook.

Sanitary Accommodation (end of 1955)

No. of Middens	1
„ „ Closets attached to middens	1
„ „ Pail Closets	11
„ „ Dry Ashpits (excluding middens) ...	Nil
„ „ Movable Ashbins for Refuse	13,760
„ „ Trough Closets	11
„ „ Waste-water Closets	36
„ „ Fresh-water Closets	13,440

During the year ten trough closets and one waste-water closet were converted to fresh-water closets.

Public Cleansing

Refuse collection, refuse disposal and street gully emptying are carried out under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and street sweeping is under the control of the Surveyor.

Since October 1951, the provision of dustbins for domestic refuse has been a rate-borne service.

Camping Sites

There are no such sites, either military or civilian, within the district.

Under section 20 of the Urmston Urban District Council Act 1935 approval was given in three instances for individual movable dwellings providing accommodation for six persons.

Smoke Abatement

The Clean Air Bill which is likely to receive the Royal Assent during 1956 will mark a considerable step forward in the battle against atmospheric pollution. This Bill based on the recommendations of the Beaver Committee will at least remove many of the frustrations which local authorities had to contend with in the past in trying to deal with this serious health nuisance.

Its implementation will not be easy since it will depend on so many factors the chief of which include :—

1. The zeal and enthusiasm of local authority members and officials.
2. Adequate staffing of the Health Inspectorate.
3. Availability and cost of suitable smokeless fuels.
4. Co-operation of Industry.
5. Co-operation of the General Public.
6. A co-ordinated national policy for Electricity, Gas and Solid Fuel.

The Standing Conference of Local Authorities concerned with industrial emissions in the Carrington and Partington area continues to collect useful data from recording instruments in the district which it is hoped will lead to a better understanding of the problem, and to action for its solution. Meantime every effort is being made to reduce the amount of smoke and other gaseous pollutants discharged into the atmosphere including if necessary statutory action.

Swimming Baths and Pools

The Council has provided modern indoor baths consisting of a swimming pool, slipper baths and showers. The capacity of the swimming pool is 180,000 gallons of water which is constantly circulating through the filters at a mean temperature of about 70 degrees Fahrenheit and is chlorinated and aerated.

Four samples of water from the pool were submitted for bacteriological examination and seven samples sent for chemical analysis. The results in each case showed the water to be quite safe for bathing purposes.

Schools

There are sixteen maintained and two private schools in the district which, with one exception, are provided with modern type sanitary conveniences. Each school is provided with galvanized iron dustbins for the storage of refuse, water supply is from the public mains and drainage is satisfactory.

Factories

Routine visits to factories were made by the sanitary inspectors in relation to the provision and proper maintenance of sanitary conveniences in mechanical factories and also in respect of cleanliness, drainage of floors, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and sanitary accommodation in non-mechanical factories. Details of action taken are to be found in the table on page 17.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

Premises	No. on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without mechanical power	36	24	Nil	Nil
Factories with mechanical power	130	120	4	Nil
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises)	30	22	Nil	Nil
Totals	196	166	4	Nil

Cases in which Defects were Found

Particulars	Number of Cases				Occu- piers prose- cuted
	Found	Reme- died	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (Sec. 1.)	3	3	1	—	—
Overcrowding (Sec. 2.)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable tempera- ture (Sec. 3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec. 6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec. 7.)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective	5	4	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	8	7	1	3	Nil

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year :

	Houses	Flats
(i) By the Council	100	15
(ii) By other local authorities...	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons	95	Nil

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	202
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	640
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit :	
(a) Number found during year	35
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year	124
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	167

Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year :	
(a) Unfit houses	Nil
(b) Other houses	Nil
(2) Number of persons displaced	Nil

Houses not included in Clearance Areas :—

	No. of	
	Houses	Persons Displaced
(1) Houses demolished or closed during year :		
(a) Housing Act, 1936—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	3	29
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force.....	2	1
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12)	Nil	Nil
(b) Housing Act, 1949—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2)	Nil	Nil
(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953—		
(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2)	Nil	Nil

(2) Repairs during the year :	
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	87
(i) By owners	44
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	3
(b) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16)—Houses made fit—	
(i) By owners	10
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	3
(c) Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954—Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	Nil

Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) :

(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	Nil
(2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above	— —
(3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	Nil

Housing Act, 1949—Improvement grants, etc. :

Action during year—	Private		Local Authority	
	No. of schemes	No. of buildings affected	No. of schemes	No. of buildings affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	11	12	—	—
(b) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	—	—	—	—
(c) Finally approved by Ministry	—	—	—	—
(d) Work completed	4	5	—	—
(e) Additional separate dwellings included in (d) above	—	11	—	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The number of distributors registered at the 31st December, 1955, under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, was 45, operating from :—

(a) Dairies in the district	6
(b) Shops in the district (other than dairies) ...	26
(c) Premises outside the district	13

Under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949—54, twenty-two “Tuberculin Tested” milk licences (including supplementary) were issued.

Eighty-two licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949—53, as follows :—

“Pasteurised” Milk	33
“Sterilised” Milk	49

Meat and Other Foods

All premises engaged in the production, storage and retailing of food are inspected regularly by the sanitary inspectors. The table on page 21 gives particulars of the post-mortem inspection of animals slaughtered in the district.

Under section 115 of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, any person who offers or exposes for sale in the Urban District any meat food product, fish, fruit or vegetables, must be registered by the Urban District Council being the local authority for the purpose of the Act within the Urban District. At 31st December, 1955, there were 14 registrations in force.

All persons engaged in the manufacture and sale of ice-cream are required to be registered under the provisions of the Urmston Urban District Council Act, 1935. At 31st December, 1955, there were 77 registrations in force.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	Nil	Nil	2	416	Nil	Nil
Number Inspected	—	—	2	416	—	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcases con- demned.....	—	—	Nil	Nil	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned.....	—	—	Nil	18	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	—	—	—	4.3%	—	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases con- demned.....	—	—	Nil	Nil	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned.....	—	—	Nil	Nil	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculo- sis.	—	—	Nil	Nil	—	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned.	—	—	—	—	—	—

The Lancashire County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority responsible for the sampling duties under the "adulteration" provisions of the Act of 1938. A total of 210 samples was obtained, of these 137 were of milk (this total includes four Channel Islands Milks) and the 73 others comprised :—

2 Flour confectionery	1 Currants
1 Oranges	1 Cornflour
1 Arrowroot	2 Blancmange powder
5 Cheese	1 Custard powder
3 Barley	1 Essence of rennet
1 Ginger, ground	2 Borax
1 Cinnamon, ground	1 Boracic ointment
3 Mixed spice, ground	2 Epsom salts
2 Vinegar	2 Milk loaf
3 Cakes	1 Rice pudding, canned
3 Margarine	1 Penicillin tablets B.P.
2 Coffee	2 Semolina
1 Baking powder	2 Pork sausage
1 Cream, canned	2 Tincture of iodine
2 Beef sausage	1 Almonds, ground
1 Boric acid powder	2 Herbs, dried, culinary
1 Glycerine	1 Mustard sauce
2 Meat paste	1 Extract of malt
2 Fruit, dried	2 Candied peel
1 Synthetic cream powder	1 Rice
1 Ice cream	1 Lentils
4 Butter	

In addition to the above, one appeal-to-cow sample was taken in the district during the year.

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following :—

Sample	Result of Analysis	Action taken
1 Beef sausage	Contained 290 parts per million sulphite preservative (expressed as sulphur dioxide) without declaration.	Vendor interviewed.
1 Formal milk	Deficient 5% fat.	Vendor notified.
1 Informal milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 5.2% of extraneous water.	Same vendor. Formal samples obtained.
1 Informal milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 5.1% of extraneous water.	

1 Formal milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 1.8% of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
1 Formal milk	Deficient 1.6% fat. The freezing point indicated the presence of 3.8% of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
1 Formal milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 1% of extraneous water.	The Food and Drugs Authority of the producer's area informed and further sample obtained.
1 Tincture of Iodine	Iodine 0.05% above maximum B.P. limit.	No action taken.
1 Tincture of Iodine	Iodine 0.15% above maximum B.P. limit.	Packers communicated with.
1 Pork sausage	Meat content only 59%.	Vendor interviewed
1 Formal milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 1.9% of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further sample obtained.
1 Formal milk	Deficient 6.1% solids-not-fat. The freezing point indicated the presence of 5.1% of extraneous water.	Prosecution. Absolute discharge on payment of £4 4s. 0d. costs.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Acute Poliomyelitis

There were no confirmed cases of acute poliomyelitis during the year.

The following table gives the incidence of poliomyelitis in the Urban District since 1933 :—

Year	Age incidence under 1 year				Over 1 year						Total
	0-2 mths.	3-5 mths.	6-8 mths.	9-11 mths.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5 yrs.	6+ yrs.	
1933	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1934	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
1935	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1936	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	3
1937	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1938	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
1939	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1940	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1941	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1942	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1943	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
1944	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1945	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1946	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1947	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	1	—	9	17
1948	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
1949	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	7
1950	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	8	9
1951	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
1952	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
1953	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	1	1	4	11
1954	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	3
1955	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	—	2	—	4	9	6	3	1	33	58

There has been no evidence to suggest any connection between immunisation against diphtheria and onset of poliomyelitis.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1955

Disease	Total Cases at all ages	YEARS									Total Deaths
		0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 and over	
Scarlet Fever.....	48	—	3	8	33	2	—	2	—	—	—
Measles	862	18	209	228	390	5	10	2	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	168	8	23	45	81	6	2	3	—	—	1
Acute Pneumonia.....	9	—	—	—	—	3	—	4	1	1	7
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	77	—	—	—	—	—	24	53	—	—	—
Dysentery	6	—	—	2	—	1	1	1	—	1	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	11	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	4	2	1
Tuberculosis—other	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS	1185	26	235	283	504	17	39	69	8	4	9

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified each month during 1955

Month	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Total
January ...	2	104	6	2	3	—	—	117
February ...	1	281	9	1	6	—	—	298
March ...	6	334	4	1	1	—	—	346
April ...	2	62	5	—	9	2	1	81
May ...	8	48	16	—	4	2	—	78
June ...	3	22	54	—	7	—	—	86
July ...	2	4	32	1	11	—	—	50
August ...	4	4	26	1	5	2	—	42
September ...	—	1	5	—	10	—	—	16
October ...	3	—	2	—	6	—	1	12
November ...	7	1	3	2	6	—	1	20
December ...	10	1	6	1	9	—	—	27
TOTALS	48	862	168	9	77	6	3	1173

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1946-1955

Disease	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	10 years mean
Scarlet Fever.....	48	40	57	72	32	78	46	62	39	50	52.4
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	.1
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	.4
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	1	11	2	—	—	—	2	1.6
Pneumonia	9	25	15	12	25	37	38	31	24	28	24.4
Meningococcal Infection	—	1	2	2	5	—	2	3	6	2	2.3
Dysentery	6	60	10	21	95	24	2	—	—	5	22.3
Erysipelas	3	5	4	6	8	13	7	10	7	6	6.9
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	3	11	2	1	9	7	1	17	—	5.1
Measles	862	155	397	487	896	252	322	337	797	221	472.6
Whooping Cough.....	168	45	207	143	192	172	143	250	124	69	151.3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	12	13	5	3.1
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	77	49	56	32	16	1	8	8	16	19	28.2
Food Poisoning	—	3	—	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	1.3
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	.1
TOTALS	1173	386	759	783	1286	588	580	714	1045	407	772.1

DEATHS 1946-1955

Disease	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	10 years mean
Enteric Fever.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	.1
Pneumonia	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	.8
Meningococcal Infection	—	2	3	2	1	1	—	1	—	—	1.0
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	.1
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.2
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	.3
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	.2
TOTALS	8	2	4	2	1	2	2	2	3	1	2.7

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases and mortality during 1955

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0-								
1-								
2-								
5-								
10-								
15-		1						
20-		1						
25-		1						
35-	1	1						
45-	2			1				
55-	1	1			1			
65-	2							
75 and upwards								
	6	5		1	1			
Totals	11		1		1		Nil	

Tuberculosis, New cases and Mortality — 1946-1955

Year	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1946	20	8	2	1	10	4	—	1
1947	15	5	4	7	4	4	—	2
1948	17	10	3	5	5	4	—	1
1949	12	12	1	6	5	6	—	—
1950	13	6	—	2	6	—	2	—
1951	18	8	4	1	5	1	1	—
1952	16	5	2	1	6	2	—	—
1953	12	12	2	3	4	—	—	—
1954	11	7	—	4	4	1	1	—
1955	6	5	—	1	1	—	—	—

The Chest Clinic is situated at Stretford Memorial Hospital, where all facilities for diagnosis and ambulatory treatment are available.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Urmston

Ladies and Gentlemen.

The report in the following pages is not intended as an exhaustive survey of the day-to-day activities of the sanitary section of the Public Health Department, but rather as a picture serving to bring out in relief the high-lights of the departmental work in the past year.

The general shortage of qualified sanitary inspectors existing throughout the country, has had its effect locally, the department was understaffed to the extent of one inspector for the greater part of the period under review. This shortage seriously curtailed much important routine work normally carried out.

Housing, atmospheric pollution, food hygiene, and refuse collection were four subjects which were given special attention, and although each produced its own peculiar difficulties, any advance in these fields must ultimately have a pronounced effect on the health and well-being of the community.

Again I wish to express my appreciation for the help afforded me by all members of the staff, the guidance of the Medical Officer of Health and the active support of all members of the Health Committee.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM WOOD,

Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

COMPLAINTS

There was no great variation in the number of complaints received by the department during the period as compared with previous years. Many complainants had serious problems which were causing annoyance, anxiety or maybe ill-health ; conversely others were of little consequence, but in all probability the ventilation of which gave considerable relief to the complainant.

Total number of complaints investigated.....	623
Total number of complaints confirmed	492
Total number of visits (including re-visits) ...	1071

Nature of Complaint	Number Received	Confirmed
Accumulations	22	11
Animals so-kept	16	5
Atmospheric Pollution	24	18
Dirty premises	10	6
Flooding	5	5
Housing Defects	141	127
Obstructed drains	101	93
Overcrowding	2	—
Rats and Mice	146	101
Other vermin	78	76
Miscellaneous	78	50
	623	492

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

In spite of well-planned dwellings, modern amenities and educational activities of all kinds, nuisances, serious and otherwise, still arise in the district. Even in a modern township such as Urmston it becomes increasingly clear that routine inspection for the detection and suppression of public health nuisances is absolutely necessary if a healthy standard of life is to be maintained.

The following notices were served during the year:—

Informal	Statutory
173	98

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93-94.

Magistrate's Order made against the owner of a house for failure in complying with the terms of an Abatement Notice.

Cos's awarded to Council.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

The Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations provide that Sanitary Inspectors shall inspect their districts systematically and at intervals as the occasion requires, and keep themselves informed of the sanitary circumstances therein.

The following table shows the number of visits and inspections made by these officers during the year:—

Accumulations	25
Animals kept as to be a nuisance, etc.	16
Aged Persons	12
Council Houses	11
Caravans, etc.	25
Drainage Work (New Buildings)	306
Drainage Work (existing Buildings)	452
Dwellinghouses—re Complaints	893
„ re Overcrowding	43
„ re Infectious Disease	89
„ re Dirty and/or Verminous	23
„ re Housing Acts	409
Dairies	38
Factories (Mechanical, Non-Mechanical), Out- Workers', Work Places	166
Food Premises	225
Hairdressers	16
Ice-Cream Premises	67
Interviews with Owners, Contractors, etc.	174
Market, Food Stalls, Fairs, etc.	68
Mortuary	12
Offensive Trades	17
Pet Shops	8
Petroleum	80
Public Houses and Cinemas	11
Public Cleansing—Refuse Tip	306
„ Other Visits	95
Public Conveniences	44
Rodent Control	92
Rag Flock	5
Sampling Visits	111
Shops	119
Slaughterhouse	42
Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution	174
Swimming Bath	12
Schools	5
Special Visits—Work in Progress, etc.	145
Miscellaneous	439
TOTAL	4,775

HOUSING ACTS, 1936-54

Somewhat tardily, due to difficulties beyond the control of the department slum clearance work recommenced during the year. Starting first in a small way, it is intended that the work will be gradually accelerated, so as to completely clear or recondition all sub-standard living accommodation within the next five years.

The small area chosen as a starting point, consisted of four back to back cottages approximately one hundred and eighty years old, and situated in Moorside Road, Flixton. They were occupied by three families consisting of eight persons in all.

This area was officially represented on the 20th September, a declaratory resolution approved on the 11th October and the Clearance Order made by the Council on the 8th November. No objection has been lodged by the owners and the Minister's confirmation is now awaited.

A further twenty-nine houses were inspected in the preparation of Clearance Areas for the representation stage.

Under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, one Demolition Order was made in respect of a single house, two houses were reconditioned following the service of Time and Place Notices, and two voluntary undertakings given by owners not to re-let, one person was rehoused.

Under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, eleven houses the subject of notice were reconditioned, and three of these notices were executed in default.

Three houses were demolished during the year, two of which were dealt with by notice under Section 11 in 1954, and the third by voluntary undertaking, twelve persons were rehoused.

Seventeen persons were rehoused from individual unfit houses in respect of Demolition Orders made in 1954.

Eight Certificates of Disrepair were granted to tenants following formal applications, and eight houses were inspected for purposes of Improvement Grants in collaboration with the Surveyor's Department.

No statutory overcrowding came to light during the period; two complaints were unconfirmed. There was however a considerable number of families living in congested accommodation and such help as this department could offer was forthcoming. The Housing Manager also rendered assistance to many cases brought to his notice.

HOUSING DEFECTS (Detailed Analysis)

Description	Out-standing 1954	Recorded	Remedied	Out-standing 1955
Ceiling Plaster ...	66	18	78	6
Dampness	46	89	110	25
Eavesgutters R.W.P's etc.....	167	97	206	58
Fireplaces, Grates etc.	40	16	48	8
Floors	35	26	45	16
Roofs	70	106	126	50
Sinks, Lavatory Basins etc.	22	16	33	5
Walls, (pointing etc.) ...	221	46	236	31
Wall Plaster	121	33	139	15
W.C. Soil Pipes etc.....	26	19	35	10
Windows, Sash- Cords etc.	269	90	301	58
Woodwork	84	29	100	13
Yards, Paths	48	14	57	5
Miscellaneous ...	232	43	256	19
	1447	642	1770	319

The above figures do not include defects found in dwellings inspected under the following heads :—

Disrepair Certificates.

Improvement Grant Applications.

Clearance Areas.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food and Drugs Act

The Council's application for a direction under Section 64 of the above Act was not determined, the powers and functions of the Food and Drugs Authority therefore remained with the County Council.

Details of the work of food sampling are included in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Food Preparation

All premises where food is prepared, stored or sold were subject to constant supervision, and many improvements carried out during the year had the effect of raising still higher the general standard of operational hygiene maintained by the trade in this area.

The large commercial undertaking engaged in food preparation and canning, continued to operate in a very satisfactory manner, and a considerable quantity of meat products exported was the subject of certification by the Medical Officer of Health but only after a rigorous supervision by the department's inspectorate.

The following table indicates the quantity of meat dealt with in this connection during the year.

Beef—	Type	Quantity			
		Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
	Hindquarters	4,331			
	Forequarters	3,004			
	Miscellaneous Cuts	1,150			
	Boneless Beef	483	14	3	5
	Boneless Crops	88	6	2	26
	Kidneys	12	15	3	19
	Tongues	5	7	—	22

Bye-laws

The Council has adopted bye-laws in respect to the handling, wrapping and sale of food. These bye-laws were based on the Ministry of Food model, but were extended to embrace other matters previously dealt with by private Act provisions.

Bye-laws under Section 92 of the Urmston Urban District Council Act, 1935, are also in operation, these seek to secure sanitary and clean conditions in the transport of foodstuffs.

Food Hawkers

Under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, 14 hawkers of foodstuffs and 6 storage premises, are registered with the Council, supervision of persons and the inspection of premises were carried out as frequently as staffing difficulties allowed.

Slaughterhouse

The one slaughterhouse in operation in the area, although not modern, has been reconstructed and brought up to a very satisfactory standard. The owner of the premises in carrying out the limited slaughtering necessary for his business deserved great credit for his scrupulous attention to every aspect of cleanliness and general hygiene.

All animals slaughtered, which included 416 sheep and 2 calves, were subject to inspection. In 18 cases some part of the carcase or organs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

Factory Canteens

In that part of Trafford Park within the Urmston area, are situated some of the largest industrial undertakings in the North-West, and it therefore follows that the arrangements for the feeding of many thousands of work-people are on a vast scale. Canteens generally are of a good standard and the management of the companies take the greatest care in providing meals of good quality and at the same time paying due regard to modern hygienic considerations.

It is regrettable however that because of the shortage of trained technical personnel in the Health Department it was not practicable to carry out inspections as frequently as was considered necessary. Ideally it should have been possible to have seconded one qualified sanitary inspector to this area who would have paid particular attention to these establishments. However, to date this has not been feasible.

Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

As in the past, careful and detailed attention was given to foodstuffs retailed in the area. It is perhaps worthy of note, however, that the utmost co-operation was given the Department by the vast majority of traders, and in one instance only was it necessary to resort to processes of the law. Food exposed for sale in the district was consistently of good quality.

Legal Preceedings

Urmston Urban District Council Act, 1935. Section 92.
“Meat carrier summoned for failure in complying with bye-laws as to transporting of meat.”

The offence was proved and the carrier fined £1 0s. 0d. and costs awarded to the Council.

Food Condemnation

The following table gives details of foodstuffs which were the subject of voluntary surrender during the year. On no occasion was it necessary to resort to official seizure.

Nature	Quantities			
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Butchers' Meat			1	6
Chicken				20
Cod Fillet				5
Hen Egg Albumen				19
Milk Fudge				3
Sausage			1	18
		1	0	15
Chicken				2 tins
Egg Pulp				8 tins
Fruit				96 tins
Fish				9 tins
Creamed Rice				2 tins
Jam and Marmalade				7 tins
Milk and Cream				32 tins
Meat Products				154 tins
Processed Cheese				1 pkt.
Soup				2 tins
Rice Pudding				1 tin
Coffee				1 tin
Fruit Juice ..				1 tin
Vegetables				114 tins

Food Premises

There are 343 food premises in the area comprising the following:—

General Grocers and Provision Dealers	95
Greengrocers and Fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	30
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	1
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	31
Bakers and/or Confectioners	28
Fried Fish Shops	15
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	29
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafés, snack bars and similar catering establishments ...	86
Others	28

The number of food premises registered are as under:—

Type of Business	Legislation under which registration effected	Number at 31. 12. 55
Manufacturer or dealer in ice-cream	Urmston U.D.C. Act, 1935 Section 89	70
Fish Fryer	Urmston U.D.C. Act, 1935 Section 87	15
Manufacturer of Sausages and Cooked Meats	Urmston U.D.C. Act, 1935 Section 87	20
Food Hawkers	Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938 Section 115	6

Special Examination of Food Stocks

A commodity known as hen egg albumen imported from an Asian country caused considerable anxiety to many Public Health Departments during the year. This material after bacteriological examination, was found to be unfit for human consumption unless used in very special circumstances.

The Medical Officer of Health obtained the voluntary withdrawal of all infected stocks in possession of bakers in the Urmston district. The matter is being further investigated by the Ministry concerned.

Milk Control

Routine sampling of milk was again satisfactorily carried out with the following results.

BIOLOGICAL (T.B.)			METHYLENE BLUE			PHOSPHATASE			TURBIDITY		
No.	Pos.	Neg.	No.	Sat.	Unsat.	No.	Sat.	Unsat.	No.	Sat.	Unsat.
8	—	8	38	37	1	32	32	—	5	5	—

Ice-Cream

The following tabular statement shows the number of samples of ice-cream obtained and submitted for examination with the provisional grading.

Number of samples	Methylene Blue Provisional Grade			
	1	2	3	4
34	24	2	5	3

FACTORY ACTS, 1937-1948

Staffing difficulties again were the cause of the paucity of visits and inspections carried out in this connection during the year. Whilst sanitary inspectors remain in such short supply, routine work, however important, inevitably suffers.

In general the sanitation in factory premises remains at a high level, and no difficulty is experienced in obtaining the full and active co-operation of managements in effecting such improvements as are found necessary.

The following table shows, so far as can be ascertained, the type of industry situated in the district and the number of personnel employed.

FACTORIES

CLASSIFICATION	Number	Number of Persons Employed
Abrasive and Refractory Materials ...	1	1,990
Bakehouses	15	40
Boot Repairs	10	15
Brickworks	1	44
British Railways	1	19
Building Products	6	1,497
Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction	30	—
Candle Works	1	57
Carpet Fitter	1	2
Chemical Works	7	725
Clothing Manufacturer, etc.	2	19
Corn Millers	1	24
Electrical Engineering, Repairs, Radio Repairs, etc.	12	527
Electricity Generation	1	363
Engineering (Heavy and Light)	10	2,704
Export Packing	1	50
Food Manufacturer, Packing, Storage, etc.	6	1,032
Furniture Upholsterers	3	7
Gut Scraping	1	36
Laundries	4	153
Motor Vehicle Repairs and Body Builders	21	500
Paints and Varnishes	2	34
Paper	1	50
Petroleum, Oil, Grease Manufacturers, Storage, etc.	12	1,306
Printers	2	10
Rubber	3	93
Sewage Works	2	129
Soaps and Detergents	1	739
Steel Drum Manufacturer, Cleaning, etc.	1	75
Steel Works and Allied Trades	8	3,255
Stone and Concrete	4	165
Timber Importers, Furniture Makers, Joiners	12	572
Transport, Haulage, etc.	4	24
Warehousing and Storage	8	87
Waste Sorting (Refuse Tip)	1	3
	196	16,346

OFFENSIVE TRADES

The following trades are registered by the Department:—

Bone Boiler and Fat Melter	1
Soap Boilers	2
Gut Scraper	1

These establishments were carried on with a minimum of objection and the conditions imposed by the Council have been readily complied with by the factory owners.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

In common with most authorities in the industrial zone the Council are anxiously awaiting the new legislation at present being formulated, and which will, it is hoped, arm the authority with new powers, stimulate public interest and add fresh impetus to the effort of minimising what is rapidly becoming one of the most serious health problems.

Emissions of black or dense smoke from industrial premises particularly in the Trafford Park area were kept down to a minimum and the installation of new plant, the adaption of old, has done much to lessen the number of complaints of nuisance from this source.

Unfortunately, however, although progress has undoubtedly been made in ameliorating visible pollution in and around the area, the development of the chemical and oil-refining industries on the one hand and electricity generation on the other, has done much to increase gaseous pollution of sulphurous origin. No ready-made solution is available or appears to be forthcoming for the resolution of this menace to health.

Observations and inspections during the year totalled 174.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Eighty-nine visits in this connection were made by inspectors during the year.

DISINFESTATION

The decline in the number of vermin-infested premises continued. The availability of new insecticides of the D.D.T. type would appear to be an important factor in this improvement.

The public generally, and firms in particular, were appreciative of the comprehensive disinfestation service provided by the Department.

Premises dealt with numbered 54.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

Compared with 1954 there has been a considerable increase in the number of rodent infestations notified, resulting in a comparable increase in inspections and treatment. The bulk of the notifications came from occupiers of dwelling-houses and were complaints of minor infestations. This increase is gratifying and with such co-operation from the public prompt action by treatment prevents further infestation which may become major in character.

Routine survey and inspection kept level with the annual average and as in past years every endeavour has been made to carry out regular inspections and treatments where necessary in the Trafford Park area.

Tips, agricultural holdings, watercourses and building sites were inspected as a routine.

The annual maintenance treatment of the sewers did not show any increase in rat infestation.

	Type of Property				
	Local Auth- ority	Dwell- ing Houses	Agricul- tural	All other (including business & industrial)	Total
Number of properties in Local Authority's district	25	12908	16	1097	14030
Number of properties inspected	3	121	16	112	252
Number of infestations RATS, — Major.....	1	—	1	13	15
Minor.....	1	32	2	37	72
MICE, — Major.....	—	1	—	10	11
Minor.....	1	38	—	20	59
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority.....	3	68	3	80	154
Poisons used—Zinc Phosphide..... 6 lbs. 4 ozs. Arsenic 8 ozs. Warfarin16 lbs. 1½ ozs.					
Bait used—Sausage Rusk454½ lbs. Bread Mash 14 lbs. Medium Oatmeal.....250½ lbs. Castor Sugar..... 14 lbs.					

MORTUARY

The Flixton Mortuary maintained by the Department was in use three times during the year, and I am obliged to the County Police for the following details :—

Causes of Death	Number
Accidental death	1
Found drowned	1
Suicide	1

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT

Acting under the powers conferred by the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928, the Council approved the issue of 77 licences covering 1,510,666 gallons of petrol or petroleum derivatives, together with five licences for 7,712 tons of calcium carbide.

A new major oil storage depot was completed during the year in the Trafford Park area and is now operational. Storage capacity includes 444,415 gallons of petroleum spirit in addition to large quantities of heavy oils. The site was developed within the limits of a strict specification and conformity with modern practice. Equipment and installations were subjected to regular inspection and test whenever necessary.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

The Council is the Shops Act Authority, and each Sanitary Inspector is appointed an enforcement officer. Shops in the area are of a high standard and facilities provided for persons employed are sufficient. The following is a list of Orders at present in force:—

Urmston (Fish, Fruit and Vegetables) Shops Weekly Half-Holiday Order, 1939.

Urmston Shops Partial Exemption Order, 1938.

The County of Lancaster Weekly (Half-Holiday) Closing Order, 1937.

Urban District of Urmston Closing Order No. 1.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Conveniences maintained by the Department are as under:—

Situation	Males		Females
Station Road	2 W.C.s	6 Urinals	3 W.C.s
Davyhulme Circle	2 „	3 „	3 „
Moorside Road	1 „	1 „	2 „
Church Road	2 „	2 „	3 „
Mosley Road (Trafford Park)	2 „	3 „	1 Lavatory Basin

It will be necessary in the near future to carry out fairly extensive reconditioning at each of the older installations, as age, constant use and climatic conditions are all having a marked effect.

MARINE STORE DEALERS

Section 86 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, has been adopted by the Council and the following Dealers are registered:—

Marine Store Dealers	3
Dealer in old metal	1

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Three premises are registered under the above Act. A sample of washed wool flock taken and submitted for examination proved to be up to the required standard.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Manpower

As the efficiency of the public cleansing service is so largely dependent on the type and adequacy of its labour force, it necessarily follows that if recruitment falls short of requirements the service provided must inevitably suffer in consequence.

This shortage of suitable manual labour has again been the “rock” on which refuse collection and disposal “foundered” and in direct consequence it has been impossible to improve the eight to ten day collection frequency of domestic refuse.

However a serious attempt at radical reorganisation is in hand, and if proposals shortly to be put to the Council are accepted, it may well be that some improvement can be effected, subject only to no further deterioration taking place in the labour situation.

Transport

Generally the Department’s transport may be said to be adequate for the task for which it was provided, but in view of the acceleration in house building, together with a pronounced rise in miscellaneous and trade wastes to be collected, it will be necessary in the very near future to increase the fleet by the addition of one vehicle.

Two Dennis side loaders (1946) are to be reconditioned early in the new year, which should add a further five years to their useful life.

The new 1,000 gallon Dennis gully emptier came into service on the 1st January last, and is proving an effective and efficient unit.

Transport under the control of the Department is as under:—

One Dennis Gully Emptier, 1,000 gallons	1955
Two Dennis 10 cubic yards Sideloaders	1946
One Dennis 10 cubic yards Sideloader	1948
One Dennis 10 cubic yards Sideloader	1949
One S.D. 24 cubic yards Rearloader	1949
One Dennis 10 cubic yards Sideloader	1951
One Austin Luton-type Van	1953

Trade Refuse

Industrial undertakings and small traders are more and more taking advantage of the tipping facilities provided by the Department in the Meadows, Urmston, and amounts have on occasion become excessive and proved a considerable embarrassment and interfered with the progress of ordinary refuse disposal.

The Chief Financial Officer has also had some difficulty in collecting a number of accounts in respect of the disposal of these wastes, and in consequence a new system of prepayment with an increased charge is to be made operative as from January next.

General

The number of bins in use in the district is 13,760. In addition there are 11 pail closets, one privy midden and 9,017 street gullies. The latter were cleansed regularly during the year.

The total weight of domestic refuse collected was 11,408 tons and the weight of refuse of all types disposed of at the Meadow Road Tip was 16,107 tons.

Dustbin Replacement Scheme

The replacement of household dustbins as a rate-borne service has continued throughout the year, a total of some 4,924 having been provided since the inception of the scheme in October, 1950. Bins were largely of $3\frac{1}{4}$ cubic feet capacity and of B.S.S. specification or its equivalent. The cost of this service in terms of a penny rate was 1.187 and represented the supply of 947 bins.

Cleansing Costs

The following table shows the comparative cost of this service for the year 1954-55:—

REFUSE COLLECTION, 1954-55

Item	Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Total
1	<u>REVENUE ACCOUNT</u>	£	£	£
	GROSS EXPENDITURE :			
	(i) Labour	8,848	1,670	10,518
	(ii) Transport	6,377	15	6,392
	(iii) Plant, equipment, and buildings	1,581	727	2,308
	(iv) Other items	467	88	555
	(v) Total gross expenditure	17,273	2,500	19,773
2	GROSS INCOME	134	4,293	4,427
3	NET COST	17,139	Cr. 1,793	15,346
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above)		250	250
	<u>UNIT COSTS</u>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only	15 5	2 2	17 7
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only	11 1		11 1
7	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	29 9	Cr. 2 4	27 5
8	Net cost per 1,000 population	£ 434.4	£ 45.4	£ 389
9	Net cost per 1,000 premises	1,336.5	Cr. 139.8	1,196.7

SALVAGE

The salvaging, sorting, and sale of waste materials was continued throughout the year, the result of this work though not spectacular was, nevertheless, highly satisfactory. The financial yield, in spite of erratic prices and markets, showed an increase over 1954 and tonnages also tended to rise particularly in respect to waste paper.

The total receipts from this source for the year ending December, 1955, amounted to £4,910 7s. 5d.

SALVAGE RESULTS 1940—56

Year Ending	WASTE PAPER		KITCHEN WASTE		TEXTILES		METALS		BOTTLES, JARS, CULLET, ETC.		MISCEL- LANEOUS		TOTALS	
	Weight Tons	Value £	Weight Tons	Value £	Weight Tons	Value £	Weight Tons	Value £	Weight Tons	Value £	Weight Tons	Value £	Weight Tons	Value £
1940	59	194	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	59	194
1941	357	1469	87	128	14	72	62	223	49	121	11	34	580	2047
1942	450	2024	317	478	20	169	54	184	33	88	15	54	889	2997
1943	481	3066	411	633	34	441	215	399	31	85	23	114	1195	4738
1944	424	2790	352	551	27	372	100	241	27	78	18	121	948	4153
1945	352	2285	306	494	29	454	86	224	22	68	17	112	812	3637
1946	312	2116	263	425	33	341	49	137	18	51	8	58	683	3128
1947	345	2268	286	472	23	261	48	143	32	167	7	61	741	3372
1948	362	2409	326	527	18	209	31	99	16	75	4	27	757	3346
1949	430	2885	324	522	21	241	37	135	22	107	4	30	838	3920
1950	471	2876	366	934	19	229	10	69	7	37	5	32	878	4177
1951	437	3193	305	838	14	228	27	119	3	15	3	23	789	4416
1952	495	8005	252	745	16	538	25	197	—	—	3	22	791	9507
1953	480	4052	215	718	21	397	42	258	—	—	2	18	760	5443
1954	458	3130	208	800	20	354	22	163	—	—	1	11	709	4458
1955	486	3480	—	—	23	426	34	240	—	—	2	14	545	4160
1956	518	4300	—	—	22	486	35	160	—	—	1	13	577	4959
Totals	6917	£ 50542	4018	£ 8265	354	£ 5218	878	£ 2991	260	£ 892	124	£ 744	12551	£ 68652
Add Salvage Collection Allowances 1949-50.....														£ 1294
														£ 69,946



